



State Capitol | Lansing, Michigan 48913  
PH (517) 373.7946 | FAX (517) 373.2678  
[www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/stamas/](http://www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/stamas/)

For Immediate Release  
May 4, 2006

Contact: Chad Wing  
(517) 373-7946

### **Sen. Stamas' bill to protect charitable fire departments approved by committee**

**LANSING** – Legislation allowing fire departments to donate surplus equipment to fire departments in need without fearing liability was unanimously approved by the Senate Committee on Local, Urban and State Affairs Thursday, said state Sen. Tony Stamas, R-Midland.

“Fire service equipment is extremely expensive,” Stamas said. “Some departments are able to secure grants for new equipment and find themselves with extra. They should be able to donate the surplus equipment without fear of liability.”

Stamas' legislation will release the donating party from liability for damages for personal injury, death or property damage, while providing standards prohibiting gross negligence or intentional misconduct by the donors.

“During these tough economic times we need to do everything possible to help fire departments provide their necessary services and save money,” Stamas said. “My legislation will help fire departments throughout the state save money and get use of equipment still in good condition. I'm glad to see this important piece of legislation approved by the committee and I look forward to seeing it signed into law.”

Beaver Creek Fire Chief Ed Holtcamp, the past president and legislative liaison for the Northern Michigan Fire Chiefs Association and the Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs, testified in support of Senate Bill 689.

“It is very appropriate that this legislation is being introduced,” Holtcamp said. “Through grants, some departments have surplus equipment but because of the fear of liability, they are reluctant to donate that extra equipment to those in need. With this bill, everyone wins.”

Holtcamp added: “We appreciate Senator Stamas taking the initiative with this bill and moving on this issue as soon as he found out there was a need.”

###

Editor's note: A photo of Sen. Stamas and Beaver Creek Fire Chief Ed Holtcamp testifying can be found on the Senate Majority Photowire at:

<http://www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/photowire/Stamas/Stamas.htm>